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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/997,248	WIEGAND, BODO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul Kim	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after-final amendment filed on March 4, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-25.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Allowance

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claims 4 and 5, "an ABC analysis" has been changed to – the ABC analysis --.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Safran on March 8, 2005.

2. The application having been allowed, formal drawings are required in response to this Office Action. Part numbers need to be typed instead of handwritten.

3. Claims 2-25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With regard to claim 2, the examiner notes that none of the prior art of record discloses a method of optimizing equipment maintenance procedures comprising: analyzing the equipment which comprises selecting the equipment using an ABC analysis based on failure modes and calculating a risk priority number for each failure, improving the equipment, modularizing the maintenance procedures, and determining when maintenance standards deviate from predetermined objectives using a feedback system.

With regard to claim 11, the examiner notes that none of the prior art of record discloses a method of optimizing equipment maintenance procedures comprising: analyzing the equipment; improving the equipment, which comprises defining the problem, preparing alternative solutions, determining evaluation criteria and their priorities, and comparing, selecting, and evaluating the solutions; modularizing the maintenance procedures; and determining when maintenance standards deviate from predetermined objectives using a feedback system.

With regard to claim 12, the examiner notes that none of the prior art of record discloses a method of optimizing equipment maintenance procedures comprising: analyzing the equipment, improving the equipment, modularizing the maintenance procedures, determining when maintenance standards deviate from predetermined objectives using a feedback system, performing a second failure mode, and recalculating a risk priority number for each cause of failure.

With regard to claim 25, the examiner notes that none of the prior art of record discloses a method of optimizing equipment maintenance procedures comprising: analyzing the equipment; improving the equipment; modularizing the maintenance procedures by describing modules that comprises providing a job description, detailing the machines and devices required for the tasks, defining the module time per unit, and determining qualifications of employees; and determining when maintenance standards deviate from predetermined objectives using a feedback system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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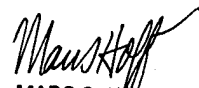
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-2217. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 571-272-2216. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

PK
March 10, 2005


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800